

Welcome!

The Threshold of Something New

The process that you have begun is exciting and important. It is exciting because new people will come into your life. It is important because your life will change.

The new people you will meet are members of the Roman Catholic Church who have a gift to share with you—the gift of faith. You are invited to look at every aspect of your life with eyes of faith. If you do so, it is guaranteed that important changes will occur in your life. Why? Because, through the Church and the faith that forms us, you will meet the most significant person in your life and in our lives—Jesus Christ.

Your Part in the Process

You are invited to give yourself fully to this process of coming to faith in Jesus. Be sure to give it time. Be patient with yourself. This is more than an academic discipline or a body of knowledge you can absorb through books or manuals in several sittings.

Faith is a relationship and, as with any new relationship, you probably have arrived at this point with many questions. As you progress in faith, you may very well find that you end up with even more questions—questions that you cannot conceive of right now. That is the way faith works. It is a process of continually going deeper into the wonderfully rich relationship that Jesus offers every believer.

Probing the depths of Jesus' saving message and ministry, embracing his teaching, and living the good news as committed Christians is bigger than any one of us. That is why there is a Church. The Catholic Church has an amazing tradition, a long history, and a wide-ranging wisdom. Through the OCIA process, you will become familiar with that tradition, history, and wisdom. But more importantly, you will meet and keep company with the living tradition and history embodied in the believers who will walk step by step with you in this process.

Essentials in Faith

This process of initiation into the Church culminates in Christian Initiation, the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Yet, the process never really ends. Faith is a gift for life. What is offered in the stages that lead up to Initiation are the essentials, the basic and vital elements that will equip you to live up to the grace given in Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Blessings to you! Welcome!